



# It's a toilet, not a trash can!

*What to flush...and more importantly,  
what NOT to flush*



operated by  VEOLIA

The sanitary sewer system is a key piece of a city's infrastructure – underground pipes convey wastewater to a treatment plant that helps keep our waterways and our environment safe. Knowing what to send down the drain and what you should and should not flush down toilets can help protect the environment and critical parts of the wastewater treatment system.

## WHAT TO FLUSH:

This is a very short list. Human waste and toilet paper are the only things you should ever flush down the toilet. This waste leaves your house, travels through a network of pipes and ends up at the wastewater plant. Treatment plants are equipped to efficiently handle only human waste and toilet paper – anything else could clog pipes and pumps requiring extra work and money.

## WHAT TO NOT FLUSH:

*If it's not human waste or TP, DO NOT FLUSH IT!*

Tissues, paper towels or other paper products should never be flushed. These types of paper are designed to stay together when wet and absorb moisture, so it often takes too long to break down in the sewer system, and can cause blockages.



The same is true for so-called “flushable” wipes. While they may go down the toilet, baby and pre-moistened personal wipes do not break up in the sewer system – they actually bind together to create obstructions causing serious blockages and harm treatment plants and the environment.



Unused drugs, or pharmaceuticals, should never be flushed. Wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove certain chemicals found in drugs. That means

harmful chemicals may not be removed during the treatment process and may be discharged into the environment, polluting waterways and drinking water supplies. Look for prescription drug drop-off events in your community and dispose of unwanted medications properly.

## DISPOSE OF OTHER MATERIALS PROPERLY:

Household hazardous wastes are sometimes disposed of improperly down the drain, on the ground, into storm sewers, or putting them out with the trash. According to the United States EPA, certain types of household hazardous waste have the potential to:

- cause physical injury to sanitation workers
- contaminate septic tanks or wastewater treatment systems if poured down drains or toilets
- pollute bodies of water if poured into storm sewers
- present hazards to children and pets if left around the house
- contaminate ground water and surface water that is used as a source of drinking water if sent to unprotected landfills

Fats, oils or greases, commonly called FOG, may go down the drain but solidifies in pipes causing blockages. Store grease in a coffee can or other safe container and dispose in the trash.

Garbage, sand, metals, wood, straw or grass, wastepaper, plastics, toys, animal parts, goldfish, glass, cat litter (including so called “flushable” cat litter), disposable diapers, sanitary napkins, tampons (including tampon applicators), other bulky so-called “disposable” products, or similar substances.

And never put any of the following down the drain, toilet or in a storm sewer either. This will cause harm to people and the environment.

- Corrosive substances, either acidic or caustic.
- Rainwater and storm water; foundation drains, sump pumps, roof drains, etc.
- Flammable or explosive liquids, solids, or gases. Anti-freeze or coolant, brake fluid, transmission fluid and other automotive chemicals.
- Paint, stains, wood preservatives, solvents, sealants and thinners
- Any substance that is toxic to the treatment facilities or workers in the facilities.
- Poisons and hazardous waste
- Anything radioactive.
- Fertilizer, herbicides, pesticides, insecticides.



***Thank you for doing your part to protect our environment and our sanitary sewer system.***